

Sydney Festival 2015

Celebrate our city in summer



Photo: Summer Sounds in The Domain © Prudence Upton

The best of our city in summer is back with a vengeance as Sydney Festival returns to our favourite destinations across Sydney, Parramatta and beyond. Expect a spectacular program of free and ticketed events spanning contemporary and classical music, theatre, dance, visual arts and much more.

Sydney Festival 2015 is comprised of 179 events, a staggering 85 of which are free. With 495 performances across 25 indoor and outdoor venues, Sydney Festival 2015 features 974 artists from across 30 countries. With 18 world premieres, 11 Australian premieres and 22 Australian exclusives, summer in our beautiful city is not to be missed.

Sydney Festival will present a number of large-scale works of international reputation, bringing to Sydney some of the world's greatest artists in theatre, dance, and music. The program will feature a variety of world premiere and Australian premiere works of cultural significance. The music program is larger than ever before and features more than 60 acts, performing contemporary, classical, experimental and world music.

Not-to-be-missed headline artist **James Thierrée** returns to Sydney Festival with **Tabac Rouge**, his largest and most extravagant work to date. Acrobat, musician, dancer, actor, and choreographer - Thierrée is recognised as one of the world's greatest and most creative contemporary circus performers. A world premiere and new Australian theatre work by **Kate Mulvany** lovingly brings to life the iconic children's book **Masquerade** by Kit Williams. Beautifully crafted by the award-winning playwright and actor, this magical tale will enchant audiences aged nine to 90. An Australian exclusive, **Kiss & Cry** is a sweeping cinematic romance with a twist, starring a duo of dexterous, dancing hands. Moving with poetic precision, this sensual, small-scale ballet must be seen to be believed.

Sydney Festival 2015 will play host to a wide range of diverse cultures with artists coming to Sydney from across the globe. From India, director **Roysten Abel** returns to bring us **The Kitchen**, a sumptuous, multi-sensory spectacle of smells and sounds, culminating in something sensational for the taste buds. From Sri Lanka, **Chitrasena Dance Company** makes its first Australian visit in 40 years as the country's oldest and most prestigious dance ensemble presents an art-form 2,500 years in the making. The sounds of Africa will have everyone on their feet to the futuristic grooves of Nigerian synth pioneer and music legend **William Onyeabor**, in **Atomic Bomb! The Music of William Onyeabor**. The voice of the man responsible for some of the most searing, Afro-funk sounds and electro explosions of our time is brought to Sydney by a star studded line-up headlined by **Gotye**, **Sinkane**, **Money Mark** (Beastie Boys), **Luke Jenner** (The Rapture), **Alexis Taylor** (Hot Chip), **Pat Mahoney** (LCD Soundsystem) and the legendary **Mahotella Queens**.

Music takes centre stage in 2015 as some of the globe's most exciting artists of our generation take over Sydney stages. Brazil's superstar **Seu Jorge** brings his signature mix of transformative pop covers and swinging original tunes from Rio's favelas to Australia for the first time. Jorge brings a myriad of musical genres with tunes flavoured with samba, reggae, Brazilian pop and electronics.

Music and spoken words combine for a very special Australian exclusive, as screen star **Charlotte Rampling** and renowned cellist **Sonia Wieder-Atherton** combine two of the most important voices of the 20th century. American writer **Sylvia Plath** and British composer **Benjamin Britten** are brought together in a rare performance of her words and his music.

Sydney Festival blends live music and the big screen when it relives **Michel Hazanavicius'** homage to silent cinema in a very special screening of the modern classic, **The Artist**. The film's award-winning orchestral score will be performed by the **Sydney Symphony Orchestra** conducted by **Ernst Van Tiel** with composer **Ludovic Bource** at the piano. Charming audiences and critics worldwide, *The Artist* is the most celebrated film in French history.

Hyde Park's hugely popular **Festival Village** returns with a variety of thrilling circus and cabaret shows, activities and almost 40 contemporary music performances. Open day and night, the Village is an oasis of arts, eats, beats and other treats, and the perfect place to plan a day out with the family, catch a show, and enjoy the balmy summer nights in the centre of our city. Audiences can enjoy all the entertainment on offer in the magnificent surrounds of The Famous Spiegeltent and our newest addition The Aurora Spiegeltent, and climb through Maser's multi-dimensional giant art installation, **Higher Ground**. Rising up two storeys, the work's colourful explosion of stripes and shapes is the closest thing you will get to stepping into a painting.

Popping up in Darling Harbour for the enjoyment of the young and not-so-young alike, **Waterfall Swing** is a large scale summertime playset with one crucial twist – using clever sensory programming it lets you swing right through the waterfall.

In Sydney's inner west, Carriageworks opens its doors to a variety of sonic adventures in the dynamic new addition to the 2015 program, *Sound/On Sound*. From large scale art installations to performance, theatre and music: *Sound/On Sound* features four world premiere works, including an immersive large scale paper labyrinth by acclaimed British artist **Mira Calix**, an affecting new Australian work by **Tamara Saulwick**, a chilling monodrama by **David Chisholm** based on text by **Mark Ravenhill**, and a moving depiction of loneliness by **Greg Barrett**. *Sound/On Sound* offers new listening experiences where hearing is believing as voice, poetic compositions, and electronic beats are released to echo through the beautiful Carriageworks spaces.

In the CBD, the temperature continues to rise in **The Domain** with four large-scale concerts. A special **Summer Sounds in The Domain** concert with Seu Jorge will have the South American superstar's samba sounds kick-starting summer in Brazilian style. **Symphony in The Domain** this year has a very special new addition with ARIA-award winning **William Barton** on didgeridoo alongside the **Sydney Symphony**. **Opera in The Domain** this year showcases the brightest operatic stars singing under the stars against the city skyline.

And a very special highlight and first time addition: **triple j, Sydney Festival** and **Fuzzy** present *Beat the Drum: celebrating 40 years of triple j*. A once in a lifetime event to celebrate four decades of passionate support for the best in Australian music, the stellar line-up will feature **Hilltop Hoods, The Presets, The Cat Empire, The Preatures, You Am I** and many more of the best Australian musicians today.

The hugely popular Festival within the Festival, **About An Hour** returns but moves to a new home at the Seymour Centre. With a long weekend of diverse 60-minute-ish morsels spanning theatre, dance, cabaret, music and comedy, tickets are just \$35 (or less!) giving you maximum bang for your Festival buck.

In **Parramatta**, *Parramatta Opening Party* is back with free music opening the season in summertime style with a joyous, street celebration on and around Centenary Square. Headlined by **Paul Kelly** and friends in his new collaborative project **The Merri Soul Sessions**, this year is big on soulful sounds. Another Parra highlight: *Far From Folsom*. In a world premiere and unforgettable music experience, **Tex Perkins** heads behind bars to

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599
sydneyfestival.org.au

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embody the spirit of Johnny Cash. Delving into the country music star's dark repertoire, he recreates his seminal 1968 Folsom Prison shows within the haunting surrounds of Parramatta Gaol.

"What's really special about Sydney Festival is the diverse programming, with the best local and international artists from high arts – opera, theatre, and contemporary dance, to circus and family shows, and a whole range of free activities. The 2015 Festival looks to be one of the biggest ever. Living up to its tag line 'This is Our City in Summer', Sydney Festival gives audiences the perfect excuse to celebrate the city in summer," says Sydney Festival Director **Lieven Bertels**.

Deputy Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Troy Grant, said the NSW Government is investing over \$5 million in the 2015 Sydney Festival through Arts NSW, with a further seven events and productions supported by Destination NSW, including the Festival's headline act *Tabac Rouge*.

"Each year Sydney Festival champions artistic and cultural excellence, providing both free and ticketed events and performances that everyone can access. The Festival showcases Australian and international artists across a range of art forms, including world, Australian or Sydney-only exclusives that attract visitors to our city.

The NSW Government's support for the Festival aligns with our commitment to excellence and innovation in the arts, increasing the opportunities for people to experience high quality arts and culture, and our goal of doubling overnight visitor expenditure by 2020."

Multipack tickets for the 2015 program go on sale on 24 October at 9am. Discounts apply to full price A Reserve or General Admission tickets for a wide range of Festival shows. More information: sydneyfestival.org.au/multipack or 1300 856 876

Single tickets go on sale 27 October at 9am.

All media releases are available for download at sydneyfestival.org.au/media

When Thursday 8 January - Monday 26 January 2015

sydneyfestival.org.au/

For interviews and further information contact:

Jessica Keirle, Publicity Manager, 02 8248 6525 / 0438 805 109 jessica.keirle@sydneyfestival.org.au

Anna Shapiro, Publicist, 0417 043 205 anna.shapiro@sydneyfestival.org.au

Gabrielle Wilson, Publicist, 0433 972 915 gabrielle.wilson@sydneyfestival.org.au